

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 CCO-00 OC-05 PC-01 /076 W

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O 041325Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3814

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1748

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 0209 DTD 04 FEB 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 0209

EVZMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

1. ARRESTS IN TAMIL NADU APPEAR TO HAVE LEVELED OFF FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST AT SLIGHTLY OVER 6000. OUR POLICE SOURCES TELL US THAT ONLY 31 NEW ARRESTS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE YESTERDAY, INCLUDING ONE OR TWO PRO-DMK STUDENT LEADERS AND ONE CONGRESS (O) STUDENT LEADER. A DMK SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT NEW DELHI DREW UP A LIST OF 450 DMK PARTY OFFICIALS TO BE ARRESTED IN THE FIRST WAVE, AND THAT ALMOST ALL OF THESE HAVE NOW BEEN TAKEEN INTO CUSTODY. ACCORDING TO OUR COUNT, THOSE ARRESTED SO FAR INCLUDE 8 DMK MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, 13 DMK MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 5 DMK MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AT LEAST 14 OF THE 24 DISTRICT SECRETARIES OF THE PARTY, AND ALL ORGANIZING SECRETARIES AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS. MANY TALUQ LEVEL AND AT LEAST SOME VILLAGE LEVEL PARTY WORKERS HAVE ALSO BEEN JAILED. FOR THE MOST PART, HOWEVER, PARTY WORKERS AT THE

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LOWEST LEVELS SEEM TO BE BEING SUBJECTED TO POLICE PRESSURES

RATHER THAN TO ARREST. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE INFORMED US THAT CMLIRA HAVE BEEN VISITING VILLAGES THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND WARNING VILLAGERS AGAINST AGITATION. A PANCHAYAT PRESIDENT IN CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE DMK TOLD ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS LAST EVENING THAT THE POLICE CAME TO HIS HOUSE AND THRTOLENED TO ARREST HIM AND DISMISS HIM FROM HIS OFFICE AS PANCHAYAT PRESIDENT UNLESS HE GAVE A WRITTEN UNDERTAKING THAT HE WOULD NOT IN FUTURE ENGAGE IN ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE SAID THE SAME THING HAD HAPPENED TO SEVERAL OTHER NEIGHBORING PANCHAYAT PRESIDENTS BELONGING TO THE DMK, AND MANY OF THEM HAD ACCEDDED TO THE POLICE PRESSURES. THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS THAT 7 DMK PANCHAYAT UNION PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES IN THE VELLORE AREA HAVE LEFT THE DMK AND THAT A DMK MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MOHANRAJ) HAS RESIGNED FROM THE DMK AND WILL SIT AS AN INDEPENDENT.

2. THE ARRESTS, OTHER POLICE PRESSURES AND BAN ON PROCESSIONS SEEM TO HAVE HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT YESTERDAY WHEN ONLY ABOUT 3000 PERSONS TURNED OUT TO HONOR THE FOUNDER OF THE DMK, FORMER CHIEF MINISTER ANNADORAI, ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY. IN PREVIOUS YEARS THIS ANNIVERSARY HAS BEEN THE OCCASION FOR AS MANY AS 100,000 PERSONS TO TURN OUT IN LARGE PROCESSIONS TO PAY HOMAGE TO ANNADORAI. INTERESTINGLY M.G. RAMACHANDRAN, LEADER OF THE ADMK, WAS IN BANGALORE AND DID NOT VISIT THE ANNA SAMADHI YESTERDAY.

3. ALL TAMIL NADU STATE GOVERNMENT FILMS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM CINEMAS IN THE STATE, AND THE FILM DIVISION OF THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CLOSED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. PHOTOS OF KARUNANIDHI AND ALL MATERIALS REFERRING TO THE DMK GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LARGE TOURIST EXHIBITION CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS IN MADRAS.

4. THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION REMAINS QUIET THROUGHOUT THE STATE AS FAR AS WE KNOW. ARRESTS ARE REPORTED FROM COIMBATORE AND TRICHY OF PERSONS PUTTING UP POSTER CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE.
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